

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 06292 050951Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O 050829Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8212

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6292

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID SREF UNRWA XF

SUBJ: UNRWA FINANCING

REF: STATE 115768

1. FORMULA IS BASICALLY APPROACH DEVISED BY LEBANESE TO CIRCUMBENT ARAB GOVTS' RELUCTANCE TO EXTEND FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO UNRWA BY ENCOURAGING THEM TO CONTRIBUTE EXPRESSLY TO WEST BANK/GAZA EDUCATION THROUGH UNESCO. (DEPT MAY WISH TO CONSULT BOB OAKLEY IN S/PC, WHO IS FAMILIAR WITH GENESIS OF IDEA.) IF TOTAL SUCH CONTRIBBUTIONS REACHED 10 MILLION DOLLARS, UNRWA COULD THEREBY JUGGLE SPENDING IN WAY TO AVOID 1974 DEFICIT.

2. IN CONVERSATION JUNE 4 WITH EMBOFF, SIR JOHN RENNIE STATED THAT, TO BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE, GOL HAD NOT RPT NOT RAISED PROPOSAL WITH UNSYG DURING HIS VISIT OR AS YET WITH ANY ARAB GOVT. SIR JOHN IN FACT WONDERED IF LEBANESE MIGHT NOT BE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT TAKING LEAD WITH FELLOW ARABS AT THIS TIME ON IDEA THAT COULD BE CONSTRUED AS WESTERN OR EVEN US-INSPIRED.

3. SIR JOHN ADDED THAT HE HAD, ON HIS OWN, BROACHED PROPOSAL PREVIOUS DAY WITH U.A.E. MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHO ATTENDING ECWA CONFERENCE. LATTER HAD SEEMED INITIALLY RECEPTIVE AND PROMISED TO RAISE MATTER WITH HIS GOVT UPON HIS RETURN TO ABU DHABI BUT APPEARED
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TO LOSE INTEREST SOMEWHAT WHEN SIR JOHN UNABLE TO

ASSURE HIM THAT ANY OTHER ARAB GOVT HAD COMMITTED ITSELF
TO SIMILAR CONTRIBUTION.

4. RE UNRWA IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANNED REDUCTION, SIR
JOHN SAID HE WAS AWAITING ARAB GOVTS' REACTION TO HIS
RECENT LETTER (BEIRUT 6080) BEFORE PROCEEDING. HE
CONSIDERED IT LIKELY THAT SOME GOVTS (MOST PROBABLY
JORDAN) WOULD ATTEMPT FURTHER APPROACH TO WESTERN DONORS
SHORTLY AND EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT ANY ARAB GOVT WOULD
TAKE SIGNIFICANT INITIATIVE TO RALLY FINANCIAL SUPPORT
FROM ARAB WORLD.
GODLEY

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Message Attributes

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